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JOBS, JOBS, JOBS

(Ms. WILSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it's now been 941 days since I arrived in Congress, and the Republican leadership has still not allowed one single vote on serious legislation to address our unemployment crisis.

According to a new survey by the Associated Press, 80 percent of adults experience either prolonged unemployment, a year or more reliance on government aid such as food stamps, or poverty-level income at some point in their lives. That's four out of five Americans experiencing severe economic insecurity at least once.

Mr. Speaker, is this the land of opportunity? The people demand a remedy.

It's time to bring the American Jobs Act to the floor. It deserves a vote. The American Jobs Act prevents layoffs, invests in long-term job creation, and expands workforce training.

Mr. Speaker, the mantra of this Congress should be: jobs, jobs, jobs.

IN DEFENSE OF FREEDOM

(Mr. STEWART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in defense of freedom. I rise in defense of the ideals that our Founding Fathers fought and bled and died for. I believe we are in a fight for the very heart and soul of our country.

We know that IRS agents targeted conservative groups and individuals. No one has been held to account for this. Such arrogance and impunity cannot go unanswered.

We know that Federal regulations are being proposed that will cost trillions of dollars and millions of jobs. These regulations are being proposed without any transparency or accountability to the people. Such arrogance cannot go unanswered.

Thanks to this administration, more and more Americans believe in the idea of Big Government. We have Benghazi. We have ObamaCare. We have the politicization of the Justice Department. We have government snooping on journalists.

The Federal Government was created to serve the people, and it is now standing with its boot on the necks of the people.

Our Founding Fathers would not recognize the Nation that we have become. We can change this. Join with me as we fight to overcome government abuse.

IN OPPOSITION TO CUTTING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDING

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the 50 percent cut in the Community Development Block Grant program in the Transportation-Housing and Urban Development bill currently being considered. This cut is reckless and punitive to communities in need.

This year, western New York communities are scheduled to receive a total of \$22.2 million, which they plan to use to improve public infrastructure, policing facilities, and fund economic development initiatives. The bill before us cuts that funding in half to \$11 million next year.

Cutting Community Development Block Grant funding is completely counterproductive and will cost the country in the long term. These cuts will erode community revitalization and job creation, only adding to the financial burden on our Federal budget in the long run.

I urge the House to reject these cuts to our communities and defeat this shortsighted bill.

VOTE AGAINST ADJOURNMENT

(Mr. WITTMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with disappointment because Congress plans to adjourn without addressing critical issues important to the American people.

It shouldn't take a government shutdown threat in September each year to will Congress to do its job. It also should not be difficult to achieve an efficient, lean, and functional government with a real budget and appropriations blueprint.

I appreciate that district work periods allow Members to visit with folks back in their community, but this August the work is too important. Unfortunately, Congress has not completed the job it needs to. It has not completed the work of the people. Too much unfinished business requires some overtime and it begs Members to stay and finish.

Let's clear our schedules, vote against the adjournment of Congress for the month of August, and stay in Washington to finish the business of the people.

As I was last August, I'm prepared to stay in Washington as long as it takes. These issues are too important to wait.

IN OPPOSITION TO CUTTING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDING

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the deep and drastic cuts to the Transportation-HUD appropriations bill.

In existence since 1974, the CDBG program has invested \$135 billion to

local communities. In this Chamber, it is often said that we need to make sure that government is more efficient and reduces wasting taxpayers' dollars. Well, I am happy to report that this program continues to be one of HUD's most efficient programs, with grantees devoting on average 94 percent of CDBG funds directly to efforts that provide benefits to low- and moderate-income families. The Republican chairperson has said, "Cutting over \$7 billion in programs was very challenging."

Well, Mr. Speaker, I say if this Chamber cuts these programs that provides jobs and infrastructure development, I can assure you that the children, the seniors, and the families helped by these programs will find it much more challenging dealing with \$7 billion in cuts.

I urge you to oppose these cuts.

HOLDING ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER ACCOUNTABLE

(Mr. GOSAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address truly disturbing comments President Obama made during his hour-long speech on July 24. He mentioned "an endless parade of distractions and phony scandals," as if to belittle the significance of these stories. Well, there's nothing phony about the deaths linked to Attorney General Holder's Operation Fast and Furious.

Beside me is a photo of blood running through the streets of Mexico, the blood of high school students murdered by guns Holder's DOJ sold to Mexican drug cartels. This massacre is far from phony, Mr. President. Brian Terry, the Border Patrol agent murdered by violent criminals whom Holder's DOJ gave the guns to, is definitely not phony.

These deaths are real.

What else is real? Attorney General Holder's violation of the law, the ramifications of which are far from phony. As Supreme Court Justice Brandeis said:

In a government of laws, the existence of the government will be imperiled if it fails to observe the law scrupulously. If government becomes a lawbreaker, it breeds contempt for law; it invites every man to become a law unto himself. It invites anarchy.

I ask you, has the Attorney General invited anarchy?

I will continue to make my case here in the people's House, at the people's pulpit. I will be back.

THE ANNIVERSARY OF MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

(Mr. LOEBSACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 48th anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid.